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The Churches and the Peace Centenary.

AN APPEAL BY THE BUFFALO PEACE WORKERS.

At a meeting in Buffalo, N. Y., November 19, 1914, of citizens representing the forty-five churches affiliated with the Buffalo Peace and Arbitration Society (each having a peace committee), the Buffalo Federation of Churches, the Buffalo citizens' committee of one thousand for the celebration of one hundred years of peace, and the church committee of the Buffalo Peace and Arbitration Society, it was—

Resolved, That whereas Christmas Eve is the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Ghent, and, during this dreadful war in Europe, there can be no joyful celebration; therefore it is the sense of this meeting that the observance of Christmas and the 100 Years of Peace, kept in accordance with Christ's teachings, should be held together; and that in the Christmas Sunday service a large place should be given to show the duty of all church members to work for peace through justice, founded on Christian principles, among nations as well as individuals, using the concrete example of our great boundary line as a lesson for peace along all boundaries between all nations; and it was further

Resolved, That confessing anew their allegiance to the Prince of Peace and His methods of life, every church should appoint a Peace Committee by action of its governing body, to work for permanent peace, and announce its appointment as part of the Christmas Peace Service, and to co-operate for a general church service February 14, the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the treaty. It was further

Resolved, That the churches of the United States and Canada be invited to join in the celebration, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to President Wilson.

TO THE CHURCHES AND THEIR MINISTERS.

Suggestive Outline of How to Weave in the Peace Idea with the Christmas Spirit.

I. The most dramatic paradox of history:

- (a) Preparations were being made to celebrate One Hundred Years of Peace between the United States and Great Britain on Christmas Eve, the one hundredth anniversary of signing the treaty of peace in the city of Ghent.
- (b) We are suddenly faced by the most wicked and disastrous of wars among eight Christian nations of Europe.

II. Such a war must naturally check any spectacular celebration at this time of the one hundred years of peace.

III. The progress of Christianity itself is threatened unless the church makes clear that Christianity has not failed. In reality, it has never been lived in all these nineteen centuries; true Christianity between nations has not yet been tried.

IV. Militarism, with all its unchristian policies of force and fear, has utterly failed to maintain peace; while, without forts, soldiers or battleships along our 3,800 miles of northern boundary, a treaty has kept peace between United States and Canada for one hundred years.

V. Let the church declare that the celebration of Christmas, and the one hundred years of peace kept in accordance with Christian principles, be observed together.

VI. As a part of that celebration, the committee asks that in your Christmas Sunday service a large place be given to show the duty of all members of the church

to work for peace through justice, founded on Christian principles, among nations as well as individuals, using the concrete example of our great boundary line as a lesson for peace along all boundaries between all nations.

VII. Confessing anew your allegiance to the Prince of Peace and His methods of life, let your church appoint a peace committee by action of its governing body—

- (a) To work through the organizations of the churches for permanent peace.
- (b) To assist in planning a great church peace celebration for the appointed Sunday, February 14, 1915, which commemorates the ratification by the Senate of the Treaty of Ghent.

VIII. Let your peace committee and the reason of its appointment be announced at your Christmas service.

Will you not send the name of your church, its minister, and chairman of its peace committee, before January 15, 1915, to the Rev. Ernest Lynn Waldorf, chairman, 443 Porter Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.?

Signed: Samuel V. V. Holmes, Edward C. Fellowes, Fenton M. Parke, Ruth C. Williams, Committee.

Correspondence.

MY DEAR DR. TRUEBLOOD: Would you give the enclosed a place in THE ADVOCATE OF PEACE soon? It has been written and printed by a committee of the Brooklyn Women's Single Tax Club, who, however, are willing to forego claims to authorship, as they believe it is a matter reaching out to all radicals and peace-lovers, regardless of differences in economic doctrine.

It seems to be more and more evident that militarism cannot be fought by enlisting a few of the well-to-do lovers of peace (theoretically), nor by endeavoring to influence governments who, under present economic conditions, know only too well that these conditions often have to be upheld by force. It is only through universal enlightenment—through an understanding on the part of workingmen all over the world of the ideas laid down in this little dodger,* and all that they imply, and also through an understanding on the part of women everywhere that they have been at fault by glorifying the military spirit in its personal shape of the uniform—that we can ever bring about universal disarmament.

If the workingmen refuse to fight, and refuse in peace times to prepare to fight—if he refuse to contribute in any way toward the cost of armaments, and if women, even where not enfranchised, will realize that the trap-pings that mark the man training to kill his fellows should be a badge of *shame*, and not one of glory—the powers that be, resting their supremacy on armed force, would find that armed force a thing of the past. Then they might look about for the possibility of a change in economic conditions that would make force unnecessary.

As a single-taxer I am working for the bringing about of such conditions. But I am beginning to think that talking to the present-day world about it is like lecturing to a boy with a gun in his hand. It is splendid to enlighten him as to the evil of the doctrine of force and hatred, and to make him see that the natural, the divine, law of the universe is love—but it's a lot

* Copies of the leaflet can be obtained from Mrs. R. Freeman, 1339 Bedford avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.